

Message Text

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R 160817Z AUG 76

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1658

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, CH, KN, KS, US

SUBJECT: PEOPLE'S DAILY "COMMENTATOR" ON THE KOREAN SITUATION

REF: HONG KONG 9527

SUMMARY: IN PEKING'S MOST AUTHROATIVE RESPOSNIVE TO DATE, A PEOPLE'S DAILY "COMMENTATOR" ARTICLE OF AUGUST 15 CONVESY THE SUPPORT OF THE CHINESE PEOPLE FOR THE DPRK AUGUST 5 STATEMENT, WITHOUT DIRECTLY SUPPORTING THE DPRK ACCUSTATION OF U.S.-PAK WAR PROVOCATIONS. IT DECLARES THAT "TENSIONS IN THE KOREAN PENINSULA MUST BE RELIEVED" AND PLACES THE ONUS ON THE US. WHILE SPURNING THE SECRETARY'S JULY 22 PROPOSALS. END SUMMARY

1. A PEOPLE'S DAILY "COMMENTATOR" ARTICLE OF AUGUST 15 CONTAINS THE MOST AUTHORATIVE CHINESE EXPRESSION OF SUPPORT TO
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DATE FOR THE DPRK GOVERNMENT STATEMENT OF AUGUST 5 WHICH

ACCUSES THE "U.S.-PAK CLIQUE" OF "WAR PROVOCATIONS". THE AUGUST 15 ARTICLE (CARRIED IN NCNA THE SAME DATE) MARKS THE FIRST TIME IN MANY MONTHS THAT CHINA HAS UTILIZED THIS AUTHORATIVE CHANNEL TO COMMENT ON AN EXTERNAL SITUATION. NEVERTHELESS, THE PRC'S PUBLIC RESPONSE FALLS FAR SHORT OF THE SUPPORTING GOVERNMENT STATEMENTS ISSUED BY VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA ON THE ISSUE AND FAILS TO INDICATE EXPLICIT PRC GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR THE AUGUST 5 STATEMENT, EXPRESSING ONLY THE SUPPORT OF THE CHINESE PEOPLE.

2. COMMENTATOR POINTS TO THE U.S. POLICY OF AGGRESSION AGAINST KOREA AS THE ROOT CAUSE OF THE "ABNORMAL SITUATION". IT CHARGES THE U.S. WITH RECENTLY HAVING SHIPPED "LARGE QUANTITIES OF UP-TO-DATE ARMS INCLUDING NUCLEAR WEAPONS" TO SOUTH KOREA AND FREQUENTLY CONDUCTING MILITARY EXERCISES THERE. HOWEVER, IT IS THE PAK CLIQUE, ALBIET WITH ALLEGED "BACKING AND CONNIVANCE" OF THE U.S. THAT IS SPECIFICALLY ACCUSED OF REPEATED MILITARY PROVOCATION AGAINST THE NORTH.

3. COMMENTATOR DECLARES THAT "TENSION IN THE KOREAN PENINSULA MUST BE RELIEVED" AND CALLS FOR THE USG TO IMPLEMENT THE U.N. RESOLUTION, DISSOLVE THE U.N. COMMAND AND WITHDRAW ALL TROOPS FROM SOUTH KOREA. AS USUAL, THERE IS NO REFERENCE TO A TIMETABLE. THE SECRETARY'S JULY 22 PROPOSALS FOR FOUR-POWER TALKS ON KOREA ARE SPURNED WITH A DEMAND THAT THE USG "STOP ITS CONSPIRATORIAL ACTIVITIES FOR CREATING "TWO KOREAS". AS IN PREVIOUS PRC STATEMENTS, COMMENTATOR ENDORSES THE NEED FOR A PEACE AGREEMENT TO REPLACE THE EXISTING ARMISTICE AGREEMENT. IT DISTINGUISHES BETWEEN SUCH A REQUIREMENT AND REUNIFICATION EFFORTS. FINALLY, COMMENTATOR LINKS THE KOREAN SITUATION WITH THE GENERAL STRUGGLE OF THE 3RD WORLD AND THE NEED FOR PERSISTENT EFFORTS.

4. ON THE SAME DATE AS THE COMMENTATOR ARTICLE, NCNA CARRIED A REPORT ON AN AUGUST 14 SHENYANG BANQUET HONORING THE DEPARTING KOREAN PEOPLE'S ARMY ENSEMBLE. IN HIS REMARKS, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE PLA GENERAL POLITICAL DEPARTMENT LIANG PI-YEH ALSO AVOIDED ECHOING THE MORE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BELLIGERENT REMARKS OF THE KOREAN SPEAKER ON THE DPRK STATEMENT. ACCORDING TO AN NCNA ACCOUNT, LIANG DECLARED THE CHINESE PEOPLE AND THE PLA'S SUPPORT FOR THE KOREAN PEOPLE'S STRUGGLE. HE CONDEMNED U.S. IMPERIALISM AND THE PAK CLIQUE FOR PROVOCATIVE ACTIVITIES BY MOVING NUCLEAR WEAPONS INTO SOUTH KOREA. WHICH, HE NOTED, HAD "CREATED TENSION".
CROSS

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